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CLICK HERE for Multiple Property Listing, "Black
Metropolis Thematic Resources"

PROPERTY NAME UNITY HALL

LOCATION 3140 S. Indiana Avenue CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Chicago

COUNTY Cook STATE Illinois ZIP 60616

OWNER'S NAME Jerusalem Temple Church of God in Christ Inc.

LOCATION 3140 S. Indiana Avenue CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Chicago

STATE Illinois ZIP 60616

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION Cook County Recorder of Deeds

118 N. Clark Street

Chicago, Illinois 60602

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION LOTS 32-33, BLK 1 IN C.H. WALKER'S SUB. OF THAT PART N. 1/4

OF S. 60 ACRES OF W 1/4, NW 1/4 SEC. 34-39-14

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE Less than one acre

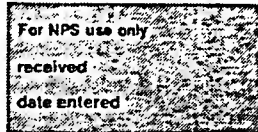
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1887 ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER L.B. Dixon

DESCRIPTION Three-story masonry structure fronted with red pressed brick and terra cotta trim. Mansarded top story with ornamental shingles. Interior arranged for meeting rooms at the front of the structure, and a large central meeting hall at the rear.

DATE AND NATURE OF ALTERATIONS First-floor windows and doorwar altered ca. 1950. Masonry on street-front painted over.

OUTBUILDINGS AND/OR OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES ON PROPERTY (ATTACH SKETCH PLAN IF APPLICABLE) N/A

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet UNITY HALL

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UNITY HALL
3140 South Indiana Avenue

Date of construction: 1887

Architect: L.B. Dixon

Beginning in 1917, Unity Hall was the headquarters of the Peoples Movement Club, a political organization headed by Oscar Stanton De Priest, the primary leader in the drive for fair political representation in Black Metropolis. Born in Florence, Alabama, in 1871, De Priest came to Chicago in 1889 and subsequently established a construction and painting business. From the time of his arrival, De Priest was deeply interested in the political structure of the city, and his involvement soon resulted in his election as a Cook County Commissioner in 1904. As the black population grew during the first decade of the century, a movement began to establish representation for the black community in Chicago's municipal government. De Priest formed careful alliances with the white Republican political bosses who controlled the Black Metropolis wards, broadening his political support. Aspirations for black representation in the City Council were realized in 1915, when De Priest defeated three black and five white candidates in the Republican primary for the Second Ward aldermanic post, and with the combined support of the community and the white Republican party bosses, was the first black to be elected to the City Council. De Priest took an active role in attending to the needs and goals of his constituents, one of his most controversial acts being an ordinance which he proposed to the City Council in 1916 which would have revoked the business license of any establishment that discriminated in providing goods and services on the basis of race. The ordinance met with vigorous opposition and was dropped from further consideration by the City Council.

Upon election, De Priest sought to establish a new political organization supported from within the black community, creating the Peoples Movement Club in 1917. Due to the aftermath of an unsuccessful attempt by some of De Priest's political opponents to disgrace his integrity by bringing bribery charges against him, from which he was fully acquitted, De Priest did not seek re-election to his aldermanic post in 1917. De Priest's political influence remained strong despite the charges, and his Peoples Movement Club political organization remained one of the best organized political groups in Black Metropolis. De Priest later became Third Ward Committeeman in 1924, and in 1928 had the distinction of being the first black from the North to be elected to the United States House of Representatives, serving for three consecutive terms.

Unity Hall, headquarters of De Priest's Peoples Movement Club, was erected in 1886 as the Lakeside Club, a Jewish social organization. The building was designed by L.B. Dixon, who lived in the area and was also responsible for the design of many residences in the Douglas community. Faced in red pressed brick with terra-cotta and sheet metal trim, the building is an excellent example of the type of buildings erected in the Douglas community in the 1880s. Interiors were arranged for numerous small clubrooms at the front and a large assembly hall in the rear.

After its occupancy by the De Priest organization, the building served for many years

National Register of Historic Places
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as headquarters for William Dawson, a prominent Democratic political leader of long standing. Now occupied as a church, the building remains largely as originally designed except for the painting of the exterior masonry and alterations to the doorway and front porch.

VIRGINIA, Rockbridge County, Mechanicsville vicinity, Locust Hill, VA 608 (05/12/86)

WASHINGTON, Clark County, Vancouver, Anderson—Beletski Prune Farm, 4119 NW McCann Rd. (05/15/86)

WASHINGTON, Cowlitz County, Castle Rock vicinity, Laughlin Round Barn, 8249 Barnes Dr. (05/15/86)

WASHINGTON, Lewis County, Chehalls, Palmer, O. K., House, 873 NW Pennsylvania (05/15/86)

WASHINGTON, Snohomish County, Everett, Weyerhaeuser Office Building, 1710 W. Marine View Dr. (05/14/86)

WASHINGTON, Whitman County, Oakesdale vicinity, Hanford, Edwin H., House, N of WA 271 (05/15/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Barbour County, Philippi, Philippi B & O Railroad Station, 146 N. Main St. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Beallmore (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1500 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Brooke Cemetery (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 2200 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Duval, General L.H., Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1222 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Elmhurst (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1606 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Hell, Lewis, Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1300 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Paul, Harry and Louisiana Beil, Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1312 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Tarr, Lucy, Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1456 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Fleming, David and Lucy Tarr, Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 2000 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WYOMING, Carbon County, Saratoga vicinity, Jack Creek Guard Station, Off PDR No. 452 (05/15/86)

The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Chicago Bea Building (Black Metropolis TR), 3647—3655 S. State St. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Eighth Regiment Armory (Black Metropolis TR), 3533 S. Giles Ave. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Jordon Building (Black Metropolis TR), 3529—3549 S. State St. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Overton Hygienic Building (Black Metropolis TR), 3619—3627 S. State St. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Unity Hall (Black Metropolis TR), 3140 S. Indiana Ave. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Victory Sculpture (Black Metropolis TR), Thirty-fifth St. at King Dr. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Wabash Avenue YMCA (Black Metropolis TR), 3763 S. Wabash Ave. (04/30/86)